

Washington D.C. – Today, Harry Teague announced that his VetStar program to promote employment for veterans was passed by the House of Representatives. The VetStar Veterans Friendly Business Act, passed as part of the Veterans Benefits and Economic Welfare Improvement Act of 2010 (H.R. 6132), creates a nationwide program to recognize businesses that hire veterans. Harry Teague worked with veterans and local business owners when developing the legislation.

“The men and women who bravely served our country shouldn’t struggle to transition and find employment opportunities when they return home. This is why businesses need to be provided with an incentive to reach out to our veterans who are seeking economic opportunity as they transition out of the armed services,” Harry Teague said. “This is a win-win situation for our local businesses and those who fought for our freedoms and safety. The strategic thinking and leadership skills our veterans acquire during their active duty are qualities that will make them an asset to our nation’s workforce.”

Teague’s bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a low-cost, annual awards program at the federal level to recognize businesses that place an emphasis on hiring veterans on a regular basis. This is designed to create an incentive for businesses to hire more veterans, and increase opportunities for veterans to gain employment in their communities. In addition, it is meant to make a positive impact on the businesses recognized, by providing them with an opportunity to improve their reputation with veterans and increase their level of business in the community. The awards program, to be administered and overseen by the VA, will present businesses with official certificates of recognition for their hiring practices, and has the goal of encouraging states to develop similar programs locally.

In addition, a bill sponsored by Harry Teague to increase educational assistance for flight

training, which had previously passed the House, was once again approved by the House as part of omnibus veterans legislation designed for final approvals by the House, Senate and President.

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